

Description

Microsoft Excel is a standard piece of software in Microsoft's Office package. While it is often associated with numbers, accounting, and other financial functions, Excel actually offers a variety of features and functions which can be molded to your needs as a mathematics teacher.

With some minimal knowledge of how the program works (and, ideally, some experience with Visual Basic or macro development), you can develop applications to act in capacities such as: graphical representation of functions, data analysis, and Excelets (Excel Applets). Similar to Gizmos, Excelets are visual models to create scaffolding for situations encountered in mathematics; they even have their own community who create, share, and moderate the quality of independently-developed Excelets.

How to Use this Resource

- Click on one of the examples on the [Excelet](#) page that is relevant to the course or grade level
- Use the tabs at the bottom of the Excel workbook to navigate between the intro page and various features of the Excelet
- Most Excelets include a feature where students can change a parameter or data set. This is done by:
 - Moving a slider;
 - Clicking arrows; or
 - Typing numbers into a highlighted cell.

The Excelet then updates automatically with the new data

Why this Resource is Useful

1. **Accessibility:** Nearly all school computers have Microsoft Excel. Once Excelets are downloaded they can be saved as a regular Excel file and thus can be used by students without internet access.
2. **Interactivity:** Students or teachers can use their own data or parameters to modify graphs or diagrams in the applets.
3. **Versatility:** Once an Excelet is downloaded it can easily be modified (no digital rights management) to better suit a class.
4. **Links to Other Subjects:** Excelets are available that link math topics to chemistry and physics.